AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An object data search apparatus comprising:

a database for storing object data in association with a plurality of categorized attribute words categorized according to sentence elements of a natural language;

an input unit for receiving an input of a search criterion in the form of a sentence of the natural language;

a criterion retrieval unit for analyzing the search criterion in the form of the sentence and retrieving one or a plurality of categorized search words respectively categorized corresponding to sentence element categories of the natural language;

an object retrieval unit for categorically searching sentence categories of the database using each of the categorized search words respectively associated with the sentence element categories, and retrieving the object data associated with the categorized attribute words that match a single search word or a plurality of search words in the same category, wherein filtering for attribute relation based on the grammatical structure of the natural language is performed; and

an output apparatus for outputting the object data thus retrieved.

2. (Original) The object data search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said database stores destination data at least associated with an attribute word having an agent of action category, an attribute word having an action category and an attribute word having an object of action category.

3. (Amended) A destination-of-travel object data search method comprising the steps of:

retrieving [one or] a plurality of search words from a search criterion input in the form of a sentence of a natural language by analyzing and categorizing the search criterion in accordance with a grammar of the natural language;

conducting a category-by-category search relative to a plurality of sentence element categories associated with a plurality of destination-of-travel object data items, based on [a single search word or a] the plurality of search words; and

retrieving the destination-of-travel object data associated with the attribute word that matches a single search word or a plurality of search words and outputting the destination-of-travel object data thus retrieved; [and]

said conducting and retrieving using at least a search word having an agent of action category, a search word having an action category and a search word having an object of action category.

4. Cancelled

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium data according to a relational database structure, wherein tuples each comprising a destination-of-travel object data item and a plurality of associated attribute words each categorized according to sentence elements of a natural language are stored and tuples are filtered for attribute relations based on the grammatical structure of the natural language.

6. (Currently Amended) The [relational database structure] object data search apparatus according to claim 1, [wherein] said object retrieval unit retrieving a plurality of tuples [retrieved in a search are filtered] and filtering the tuples so that overlapping tuples are filtered off [and filtering for attribute relations based on the grammatical structure of the natural language is performed].

7. (Currently Amended) The relational database structure according to claim [3] 5, wherein a plurality of tuples retrieved in a search are filtered so that overlapping tuples are filtered off and filtering for attribute relations based on the grammatical structure of the natural language is performed.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of searching object data comprising:

storing object data in association with a plurality of categorized attribute words, wherein the attribute words are categorized and stored according to sentence elements of a natural language;

inputting a search criterion in the form of a sentence of the natural language;

analyzing the search criterion in the form of the sentence and retrieving at least one of a plurality of search words respectively corresponding to sentence element categories of the natural language;

searching sentence element categories of the database using each of the search words respectively associated with the sentence element categories, and retrieving the object data associated with the categorized attribute words that match a single search word or a plurality of search words in the same category, wherein filtering for attribute relation based on the grammatical structure of the natural language is performed; and

outputting the object data thus retrieved.

9. (New) A method for determining a destination based on a natural language query, comprising:

storing destination object data in association with categorized attribute words categorized according to sentence elements of the natural language, wherein the categories include agent-of-action, action, and object-of-action categories;

inputting a query utilizing a natural language sentence;

retrieving one or more categorized search words from the query such that each search word has an associated one of the categories corresponding to sentence elements of the natural language;

categorically searching the attribute words for a match with the retrieved search word and retrieving the destination object data associated with the attribute word that matches the search word,

wherein the category of attribute words searched by said searching step corresponds to the category of the search word, and

outputting the destination object data retrieved by said categorical search.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9,

said categorical searching including:

when the search word is in the agent-of-action category, searching the agent-of-action category for a match with the search word;

when the search word is in the action category, searching the action category for a match with the search word; and

when the search word is in the object-of-action category, searching the object-of-action category for a match with the search word.

11. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the categories include agent-of-action, action, object-of-action, and key word categories.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the destination object data includes destination position information and name information of a destination.

13. (New) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

filtering for attribute relation based on a grammatical structure of the query.